

01517

1975/04/30

QJN
April 30, 1975
(WRS)

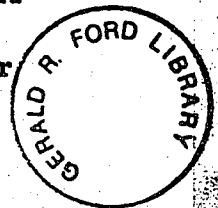
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Government of the Republic of Vietnam has surrendered. Prior to its surrender, we have withdrawn our Mission from Vietnam.

Vietnam has been a wrenching experience for this nation. Presidents and Congresses agonized over its complexity. Many Americans died. Many others were wounded. Some are not yet accounted for. The long and costly effort strained the domestic fabric of our nation.

At this moment, we must look ahead as well as back. So much remains to be done, both at home and abroad. Even as we withdraw from Vietnam, we do not withdraw from the world. As we approach our 200th Anniversary, we want to bring America closer and closer to the inspiration that guided our founding fathers. In this spirit, and in the spirit of America as refuge, let us welcome the new friends who are coming to our shores searching for freedom and tranquility.

I would like to address a special word to those who lost their loved ones during this war. Their sacrifice was not ignoble or unworthy. The nation mourns and honors those who have been lost. It will remember them with dignity and deep appreciation.



Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

History must be the final judge of that which we have done or left undone, in Vietnam and elsewhere. Let us calmly await its verdict. Here and now, within and among ourselves, let us find peace and strength in reconciliation.

